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CHICAGO MID-WINTER MEETINGS

The Mid-winter meetings at Chicago were attended by 238 persons. The A. L. A. Council held two sessions one of which was a joint meeting with the League of Library Commissions. The League of Library Commissions held two other meetings and there were one or more conferences of the University Librarians, the College Librarians and the Normal School Librarians. Meetings were also held by the Executive Board, the Publishing Board and the Committee on Education.

JOINT MEETING OF COUNCIL AND LEAGUE OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONS

December 28, 1920

An open meeting of the Council and League of Library Commissions was held at the LaSalle Hotel, December 28, 1920.

Miss Alice S. Tyler, president, presided.

Library Support and Library Revenues

Mr. S. H. Ranck of Grand Rapids, Mich., read a paper on "Sources and Responsibilities of Library Revenues."

This was followed by a paper on the same subject by Judge Ora L. Wildermuth of Gary, Ind.

It is expected that both of these papers, in part at least, and some report of the discussion which followed, will appear in the library periodicals.

The following persons took part in the discussion: Dr. A. E. Bostwick, Miss Linda A. Eastman, Henry N. Sanborn, Miss Grace D. Rose, Miss Mary Eileen Ahern, Adam Strohm, Mrs. Elizabeth Claypool Earl, M. S. Dudgeon, Wm. J. Hamilton, Wm. F. Yust, J. L. Wheeler, Dr. Frank P. Hill, Miss Anna MacDonald, Miss Julia A. Robinson.

The President announced that the A. L. A. Conference in 1921 will be held at Swampscott, Mass., June 20-27.

COUNCIL MEETING

December 29, 1920

An open meeting of the Council and League of Library Commissions was held at the LaSalle Hotel, December 28, 1920.

Miss Alice S. Tyler, president, presided.

Field and Function of a National Professional Organization. Mr. Henry N. Sanborn, Bridgeport, Conn., read a paper on this subject. (This paper has been printed in *Library Journal* for Jan. 15th, and a summary of it is being printed in February *Public Libraries*.)

Mr. H. H. B. Meyer, in discussing Mr. Sanborn's paper, said that in his opinion nothing would so advance the interest of library affairs in the vicinity of Washington as a regional association which would take in the states of Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland and the District.

Miss Ahern said "There is no question but that the Regional Association is coming. I had a strong letter this week from a librarian in the state of Nebraska who points out the fallacy of their belonging to a state association and belonging also to the A. L. A. with nothing in between. My own preference had been for one strong national association; and I may say, when I read this letter from the Nebraska librarian, I had a complete reversion to the other point of view."

"Indiana is very anxious to become a part of the A. L. A.," said Mr. William J. Hamilton, of Indianapolis. "We are not satisfied at all to have 350 or 400 members of our Indiana Library Association and only 100 or 125 members of the A. L. A. We want to see some arrangement by which every single member of the I. L. A. can become automatically a member of the A. L. A. I am very certain that any plan presented by the A. L. A. for a federation with state associations will have the hearty approval of the librarians of Indiana. We want to be a part of the national organization. We are not content with our state association alone."

The President asked whether the addition of regional meetings to the annual conferences, the mid-winter meetings and the various state meetings would not perhaps make too many library meetings, and

suggested a discussion of biennial meetings versus annual meetings.

Miss Julia A. Robinson, of Iowa, thought the Iowa Library Association would be heartily in favor of group and regional meetings. Mr. Meyer expressed the hope that regional meetings would rather reduce the total number of meetings than increase the number. His opinion was that many states might eliminate at least some of their state meetings because they would be satisfied with their regional meeting.

Serious objection to any proposed abandonment of state meetings was voiced by Miss Anna MacDonald of Pennsylvania and by others.

Mrs. Elizabeth C. Earl, of Indiana, stated that the General Federation of Women's Clubs holds national and state meetings biennially.

St. Louis Will Form Local Group

"My idea about regional organizations," said Dr. Bostwick, of St. Louis, "is that we should encourage the formation of local groups of members of the A. L. A. in small localities wherever we possibly can. Those groups can be formed without any authority from the A. L. A. For instance we have in mind the formation of one in St. Louis at a very early date, probably within a few weeks, and we shall do it whether we are authorized to do so by the A. L. A. or not. The people who were born in Ohio can get together in St. Louis and form an association in St. Louis and the people with red hair and blue eyes can get together and form an organization, and I can see no objection to people belonging to the American Library Association getting together and saying that they will further the interests of the A. L. A. in that locality.

"But I can see the wisdom of our laying down a few brief suggestions for their work and the way in which the organization is to be carried on."

Dr. Bostwick said that instead of having members of the Library Staff ask, "What is there in it for us to join the

A. L. A.?" they would ask, "How can I get into it?" For if they want to belong to the local organization they must first join the A. L. A.

Membership Dues

Several persons discussed the question of whether the A. L. A. and the various regional or state groups could have one annual membership fee, which would cover membership in all the organizations. It was suggested that it might be advisable to have one membership which includes the Proceedings in the Handbook and another membership which does not include these publications. The amount would be perhaps \$5.00 and \$2.00.

The question having been raised, the President asked how many favored an increase in the annual dues. Nearly all raised their hands but no count was taken.

Discussing the proposed plan of electing officers by mail, Mr. Ranck called attention to the fact that this sometimes results in the election of people who are well known but who will not give any attention to the business in hand.

"It seems to me," said Mr. Carl B. Roden of the Chicago Public Library, "that we might pause a moment and consider whether we are so very certain that we want to draw this straight and sharp line between a welfare organization and a professional organization. It doesn't seem to me that we are at the crossroads, the point of departure, where we have to decide whether we shall be either one or the other."

He urged that no steps be taken which will prevent the A. L. A. from "trying to preach its gospel over the country in the places where it is not the function of anyone else to preach that gospel."

Mr. Sanborn stated that Mr. Roden had misunderstood what he (Mr. Sanborn) had said in his paper, that there was nothing whatever in the suggestions made that would prevent the A. L. A. from doing what Mr. Roden had in mind.

In addition to those mentioned above, the following persons took part in the dis-

cussion: P. L. Windsor, F. P. Hill, J. L. Wheeler, C. E. Rush, J. C. M. Hanson, O. S. Rice.

Ex-President Hadley's Suggestions

The following suggestions from Mr. Hadley based on his presidential address at Colorado Springs, were read by the Secretary.

Some preliminary suggestions for a consideration of ways and means of bringing the American Library Association and library workers into closer relation and cooperation for their mutual benefit and for promoting the welfare of libraries in America, particularly through promoting the welfare of library employees.

It is suggested:

First: That Section 14 of the A. L. A. constitution be amended to read: "The Council shall consist of the Executive Board, all ex-presidents of the Association who continue members thereof, all presidents of affiliated societies who are members of the Association, and representatives from state, provincial and territorial library associations to be elected at the annual meetings of such associations, on the basis of one representative from the association having a membership of fifty or less, and one additional representative for each additional one hundred members, the representative in all cases to hold personal membership in the American Library Association."

"Members of such state, provincial or territorial association who belong to the American Library Association shall constitute a state chapter of the American Library Association if such is approved by vote of such Association, and local groups of American Library Association members within such state or geographical division desiring to organize may become a local chapter of the American Library Association registered under the state chapter."

Second: It is suggested that the American Library Association issue charters for the organization of these state, provincial or territorial associations as integral parts of the American Library Association and in those charters it shall define the proper and improper activities of these working units of the American Library Association.

Third: It is suggested that the American Library Association, through and with the cooperation of these state, provincial or territorial associations, endeavor to stabilize and secure fair and just salaries for employees in the various grades of library

service, and endeavor also to secure for all library employees proper hours of work per week, vacation and sick leave time.

It is suggested also that recommendations made by the American Library Association on salaries, hours of work, sick leave time, etc., be made available for local use by A. L. A. chapters, and that circular letters advocating proper salaries and working conditions be sent by the American Library Association to the individual library trustees of such library institutions as may be designated from time to time by the state or local chapters of the A. L. A.

It is also recommended that the American Library Association give personal assistance when possible and when requested to do so, to its state and local chapters when questions affecting salaries, hours of work and the general welfare of library employees are being considered by these chapters, and that the A. L. A. assist in every possible way to advance and stabilize library salaries as the means to do so present themselves in the proposed closer relations between the American Library Association and its members.

In discussing Mr. Hadley's suggestions, Dr. Bostwick said he thought the plan was too elaborate; that what we wanted was something very simple. "It seems to me," said Dr. Bostwick, "that state chapters of the A. L. A. are a great mistake. They conflict with state organizations. The associations I propose would be in towns where there are no associations."

Mr. Hamilton of Indiana expressed the opinion that a large number of state associations would be perfectly willing to merge themselves with the A. L. A. and to lose their identity as state associations.

Others who took part in the discussion on this subject were Dr. C. W. Andrews, Henry N. Sanborn, Miss Mary Eileen Ahern, S. H. Ranck, W. M. Smith, O. S. Rice, Adam Strohm, Miss Linda A. Eastman and F. W. Schenck.

Committee on Publications

The following report was presented:

The committee appointed to report to the Council on the constitutionality or advis-

ability of the employment of a publisher by the Executive Board, begs to report its recommendation that this matter be referred to the Publishing Board for such disposition as in its judgment may seem proper.

ARTHUR E. BOSTWICK,
Chairman.

The other members of the Committee were Messrs. A. S. Root and M. G. Wyer.

The report was approved by a vote of 19-1.

Statement by Treasurer

Mr. Tweedell presented a report on the status of War Service, Enlarged Program Campaign and Books for Everybody Funds. (See pages 12-13.)

There was some discussion of the War Service Continuation work.

Committee on Committees

At the suggestion of the president it was

Voted: That the President appoint a Committee on Committees, to report to the Council.

It was understood that the purpose of this Committee is to draft a brief statement showing what is the work of each Committee, and also to make recommendations as to the Committees which should be created or discontinued.

LEAGUE OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONS

The annual meeting was held on December 28-29th. Thirteen states were represented.

The discussion covered, "Entrance requirements for summer schools," "Library buildings for small towns," "Branch libraries in schools," "Uniform traveling library record blanks," "Proposed legislation" (see page 16), and "Indiana minimums."

The officers elected were:

President, Wm. C. Watson, New York; first vice-president, Wm. J. Hamilton, Indiana, for 1 year; second vice-president, Mary P. Palmer, North Carolina, for 1 year; member at large, Milton J. Ferguson, California, term to expire January, 1924; secretary and treasurer, Anna May Price; members at large, terms holding over, Elizabeth Wales, Grace E. Kingsland.

A joint session was held with the A. L. A. Council on the afternoon of the 28th.

(More detailed reports will undoubtedly be found in the library periodicals.)

COLLEGE LIBRARIANS

The Conference of College Librarians of the Middle West was held as usual at the Hotel LaSalle, Chicago, on Monday, December 27th.

Various topics dealing with college library problems were introduced by the different members and informal discussions followed. Special mention should be given an interesting paper read by Mr. J. C. M. Hanson of the University of Chicago on the "Library of Congress Classification."

Miss Ada M. Nelson, Knox College, Galesburg, Illinois, was elected chairman for the next meeting.

NORMAL SCHOOL LIBRARIANS

Reading Lists and Exhibits

Over twenty Normal school librarians met Monday, December 27, 1920, at the La Salle Hotel to discuss the topics previously suggested.

Most of those present agreed that instead of preparing reference lists, a better way is to obtain lists prepared by larger libraries and check them. Some librarians had prepared special card indexes of fairy tales, material on picture study and stories in readers. While most of the libraries represented owned picture collections usage was about evenly divided between classification by the Decimal classification and alphabetical arrangement by subject. In many instances industrial exhibits and slides are housed in the library and it was suggested that specimens of common minerals and mounted specimens of common birds used in the elementary school also be made available through the library.

Teaching the Teachers

In the afternoon the time was spent discussing teaching the use of the library and similar topics. Only one librarian taught the children in grades 1-6, but more taught simple reference books to the pupils in

the Junior high school and some course was quite generally taught in the Normal schools; either the use of reference books and catalog or some simple technical work. Practice varied in teaching children's literature, some of the courses being taught by the teachers of English and some by the librarians. The demand for teacher-librarians seems to be centralized in one or two states and in these states the course is popular. In other states where there is no demand it was not taught.

Mr. Arthur Cunningham, librarian of the state Normal school at Terre Haute, Ind., was appointed chairman for next year.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

A meeting of the A. L. A. Committee on Education was held at the Hotel LaSalle, Dec. 27-28.

It was decided to ask each State Library Association to appoint a Committee on Education to cooperate with the A. L. A. Committee on Education in developing public opinion in each state with regard to library standards. The desire is to set up standards for school library and public library cooperation to be met in each state. State aid is desirable because it gives a basis of control. Without it commissions are advisory only.

To set up the standards a survey will be taken through a brief questionnaire as to the requirements needed for education, training and experience, emphasis being placed upon equal rank with the teachers in the various communities. The standards decided upon must be backed by the A. L. A. Certification Board.

The question of the degree which should stand for graduate library work was taken up. It was decided to confer with the Association of American Library Schools. It seems advisable in view of the present urgent call for library workers to establish regional Library Schools at various state universities.

Discussion of Dr. Sherman Williams' proposed points of activity for the N. E.

A. Library Section brought out the following suggestions: 1—Substituting for "library in every school," "books in every school." It was felt that the word library would in many cases be a misnomer. 2—The salary of the school librarian to be the same as that of a teacher of equal education and professional training. 3—The training of school librarians in Normal School Libraries was questioned as lacking the view point of the Public Library work. This difficulty, however, could be obviated and the value of normal training for school librarians retained by requiring a stated amount of practice during the training period in public library work particularly in reference work and with children.

The combination of the State Departments of Education and of the library commissions seems open to danger from political influence and office holding by persons without library knowledge. When such combinations are contemplated by a state the preliminary steps should be that the State Board of Education be removed from politics and that the Commissioner of Education be thoroughly interested in library affairs.

The earnest promotion of the plans of the various education sections of the A. L. A. and of the Library Section of the N. E. A. should form a large part of the committee's work.

Finally:

1. The committee wishes to urge that each community take immediate steps to place its public librarians and its school librarians upon an equal footing with the teaching force in the community.

2. That each public library be related to the school library service.

At the request of the Chairman, Mr. Kerr sent a communication giving extensive suggestions for the future activities of the committee.

MARTHA C. PRITCHARD,
Secretary.
HARRIET A. WOOD,
Chairman.